



A fast-read update on Lake County's county-owned, high-speed fiber optic network

Lake Connections Photo Contest

Congratulations to John Heino, the winner of the Lake Connections photo contest. John's waterfall picture was chosen from over 40 entries and will be featured on the new Lake Connections website. The new website is currently under construction, and will be live in March.



Digital TV is closer than expected!

Digital TV is just around the corner. The Lake Connections Administrative and Service Center is has been outfitted with the Digital TV infrastructure. Contract negotiations and agreements for major networks are still ongoing, but should be wrapped-up in the next 30-60 days; allowing Lake Connections Digital TV service to be live sooner than expected. There will be close to 200 channels available with the HD Digital TV service.

Administration and Service Center

Lake Connections is pleased to announce the expansion of their team in Two Harbors with two new hires. Rob Vance has joined Lake Connections as Installation and Repair Technician, and Russ Vance as Plant Supervisor. Both bring tremendous telecom industry knowledge and experience to the Lake Connections team, and are excited to be on board. Continue to check the Lake Connections website for future career opportunities.



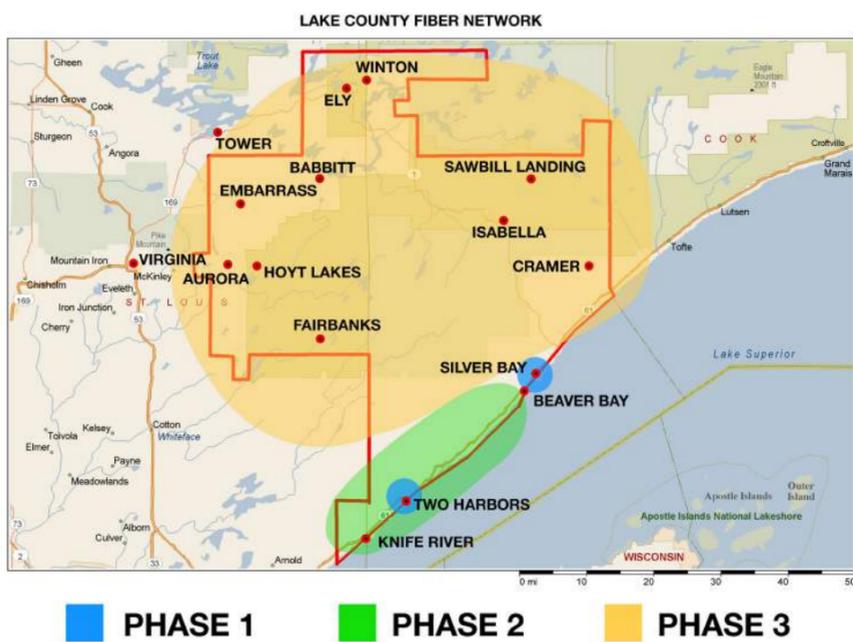
Rob Vance



Russ Vance

At a Glance Construction Update

2013 came to a close with over 200 miles of fiber being installed on the fiber network, and the construction crews have plans to install even more throughout 2014. Mother Nature has posed considerable challenges for the crews over the past couple of months, with both record days of sub zero temperatures, and considerable snowfall creating delays. The crews have continued when able, working on splicing, fusing, and lashing fiber.



IMPORTANT NOTE:

If you are interested in having fiber to your home or business and you see crews drive by or working in your area without stopping, do not worry, that is the main line crew. Pre sales are starting soon, and the drop crew will be along eventually to get you connected if you have requested them to do so. If you have any questions please call Lake Connections at 218-834-8500.

ALL PHASES ARE SCHEDULED IN THE MOST EFFICIENT MANNER.

Phase One:

Two Harbors • Silver Bay

Even though the weather has caused construction delays, the Silver Bay main line was completed in early February, making accessibility to High-Speed Internet, Digital TV and Voice services one step closer for Silver Bay residents.

Homes and businesses in Silver Bay should be on the look out for an informational postcard to reach their mailboxes within the week. These postcards include instructions for joining the Lake Connections installation schedule. This schedule ensures you a place in line for getting the Lake Connections services installed inside your home or business – don't miss this early bird opportunity!



The community meeting that was originally scheduled for February has been postponed until further notice due to construction delays brought on by weather. More information will be shared regarding the community meeting when available.

Pole ownership disputes are continuing to delay advancement in Two Harbors. Lake County is hopeful an agreement can be made over the next 60-90 days.

Phase Two:

Duluth Township • Knife River • Silver Creek Township • Beaver Bay Township

Phase two had considerable construction progress in 2013, and is over 60% complete. There are roughly 50 miles still needing to be constructed on this phase, keeping it on track to be completed during the first half of 2014.

Phase Three:

Ely • Aurora • Babbitt • Hoyt Lakes • Basset Township • Colvin Township • Crystal Bay Township • Embarrass Township • Fall Lake Township • Morse Township • Stony River Township • Waasa Township • White Township • And several unorganized townships

Rural Utility Services (RUS) approved the construction agreement for this phase in February. Compass Engineering is working on final configurations for this phase, and construction is set to begin in May of this year and last through July of 2015.

Employment Opportunities:

Lake Connections is currently hiring for the position of Customer Service Representative and Service Technician. For more information, please visit the website at www.lakeconnections.com/careers and be sure to continue to check the site for future employment opportunities.



Can't wait until the next Gaining Speed?
Be sure to follow Lake Connections on Facebook and Twitter for all the latest news and events!



For project and construction updates see "Gaining Speed" on www.lakeconnections.com



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